Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08710 051156Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 IO-14 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 CEQ-01 /127 W
----------074717 051200Z /53
P R 051055Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2012
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATMANDU
AMCONSUL MADRAS
USUN NEW YORK 2433

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 8710

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM IN
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE ON DISARMAMENT

1. FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE ADDRESSED A JUNE 3 PRESS CONFERENCE IN SIMLA DURING A MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, VAJPAYEE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THE GOI OPPOSES THE PAKISTAN PROPOSAL FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA ALONE, ON THE GROUNDS THAT TO DECLARE JUST ONE AREA OF THE WORLD A ZONE OF PEACE WOULD LEAD TO THE STOCK -PILING OF WEAPONS AND AN ARMS RACE IN ANOTHER AREA. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A SCHEME COULD BE POSSIBLE IF

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IT WERE PART OF A PROPOSAL TO MAKE THE ENTIRE WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR ARMS.

(B) VAJPAYEE REPORTEDLY RESPONDED TO ONE QUESTION THAT THE SOVIET POSITION ON DISARMAMENT WAS CLOSER TO THE APPROACH OF THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AT THE SSOD THAN WAS THE POSITION OF OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS.

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(C) HE WELCOMED THE WILLINGNESS OF THE MAJOR POWERS TO DISCUSS DISARMAMENT AT THE SSOD AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A PHASED PROGRAM FOR COMPLETE DISARMAMENT WOULD BE AGREED UPON RATHER THAN THE ADOPTION OF AD HOC MEASURES. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE BIG POWERS TO BAN COMPLETELY NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION AND TO REDUCE THEIR NUCLEAR STOCKPILES.

(D) VAJPAYEE ALSO REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT ONCE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS ON NON-PROLIFERATION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS WOULD ALSO INCREASE. HE ADDED THAT INDIA AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERT MORAL PRESSURE ON NUCLEAR POWERS.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ONE MP ON THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, RAM JETHMALANI, URGED THAT INDIA SIGN THE NPT AND ACCEPT FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS TO ASSURE AN UNINTERRPTED FLOW OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND FUEL FOR THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. HOWEVER, THIS VIEW WAS OPPOSED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

3. WE ARE SEEKING TO GET FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS OF VAJPAYEE'S BRIEFING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2490257
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE ON DISARMAMENT
TAGS: PARM, IN, (VAJPAYEE, ATAL BEHARI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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